

OPINION 1135

MUREX LOTORIUM LINNAEUS, 1758 (MOLLUSCA:
GASTROPODA): RULING ON INTERPRETATION

RULING – (1) Under the plenary powers, it is hereby ruled that the specific name *lotorium* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Murex lotorium*, is to be interpreted by reference to the specimen figured by Reeve, 1844, pl. 6, fig. 19b, British Museum (Natural History) Number 1967696;

(2) The specific name *lotorium* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Murex lotorium*, and as interpreted according to the ruling given in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2684.

HISTORY OF THE CASE Z.N.(S.) 1886

An application for the validation of the current interpretation of *Murex lotorium* Linnaeus, 1758 was first received from Dr A.G. Beu (then of *Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand*) on 2 April 1969. It was sent to the printer on 2 May 1969 and published on 24 October 1969 in *Bull. zool. Nom.*, vol. 26: 174–176. Public notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the case was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* and was sent to the statutory serials as well as to three malacological serials. Alternative proposals were put forward by Dr H.A. Rehder (*Bull.* vol. 27: 67) and Dr W.O. Cernohorsky (*Bull.* vol. 27: 133); Dr Beu's reply was published in *Bull.* vol. 28: 78.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 5 September 1978 the members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (1978)16, in Part A for or against the use of the plenary powers in this case, and in Part B to choose between three alternatives: A, the specimen figured by Reeve, 1844, specified by Dr Beu; B, the specimens figured by d'Argenville and Rumphius named by Dr Rehder; and C, the specimen figured by d'Argenville named by Dr Cernohorsky. At the close of the voting period on 5 December 1978, the state of the voting was as follows:

Part A

Affirmative Votes – eighteen (18), received in the following order: Holthuis, Melville, Alvarado, Eisenmann, Mroczkowski, Vokes, Brinck, Willink, Tortonese, Cogger, Binder, Bayer, Dupuis,

Corliss, Habe, Nye, Welch, Bernardi

Negative Votes – none (0).

Part B

For Alternative A – fourteen (14), received in the following order: Holthuis, Melville, Alvarado, Eisenmann, Mroczkowski, Brinck, Willink, Tortonese, Cogger, Binder, Bayer, Corliss, Nye, Welch

For Alternative B – Dupuis

For Alternative C – Vokes, Habe, Bernardi.

Sabrosky returned a late vote for Part A and Part B Alternative C; Ride was on leave of absence; no votes were returned by Heppell, Kraus and Starobogatov.

The following comments were sent in by members of the Commission with their voting papers:

Eisenmann: "As all agree that all the old figures relate to the same species, it seems better to use a figure supported by an extant specimen."

Vokes: "I believe that a figure known to the original author of the name should have preference over one published some 80-odd years later. Furthermore, there should be only one type figure (specimen)."

Dupuis voted for Alternative B in Part B "provided that the figure be coloured". [It is not. R.V.M.]

Sabrosky: "The primary manuscript notes are unpublished, but they indicate that Linnaeus correctly recognised two distinct species, but erred in citing the figures. Cernohorsky's proposal relates the name to Linnaeus, 1758, but shows the error."

ORIGINAL REFERENCE

The following is the original reference to a name placed on an Official List by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

lotorium, *Murex*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.*, ed. 10, vol. 1: 749.

CERTIFICATE

I certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (78)16 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that voting paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, is truly recorded in the present Opinion 1135.

R.V. MELVILLE *Secretary*
International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature
 London 2 March 1979